

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BERLIN 00228 041820Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /123 W

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R 041700Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2941

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AND AEAGG-OCO

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

USELMLO

S E C R E T BERLIN 0228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEFECTOR

REF: BERLIN 213

1. BRITISH MISSION HAS PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF SOVIET EFFORTS TO GAIN ACCESS TO AND EFFECT RELEASE OF SOVIET KGB CAPTAIN ALEXEI MYAGKOV, WHO DEFECTED FEBRUARY 2 WHILE ON TOUR OF CHARLOTTENBURG PALACE AND IS NOW IN BRITISH HANDS. MYAGKOV, WHO WAS ARMED AT TIME, WAS APPARENTLY ACTING AS GUIDE FOR GROUP OF SOVIET VISITORS.

2. EVENING FEBRUARY 2 SOVIET PROTOCOL OFFICER ROMANOVSKIY AND HEAD OF EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION KONAVALOV CALLED ON BRITISH PROTOCOL OFFICER AND REQUESTED IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO MYAGKOV. TWO SERB

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BERLIN 00228 041820Z

OFFICERS ALSO VISITED HEAD OF BRIXMIS AND ASKED, ON

BEHALF OF SOVIET CINC AND CHIEF OF STAFF, THAT MISSING OFFICER BE FOUND AND RETURNED TO SOVIET SECTOR (SIC). IN BOTH CASES SOVIETS WERE TOLD THAT MYAGKOV HAD ASKED FOR ASYLUM, THAT HE WAS IN BRITISH MILITARY HANDS, AND THAT THEIR REQUESTS WOULD BE PASSED ON AND ANSWERS GIVEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. LATER IN EVENING SOVIET COUNSELOR BELETSKIY, ACCOMPANIED BY ROMANOVSKIY, CALLED ON BRITISH POLAD AND DEPUTY POLAD AND PRESSED TO KNOW WHERE MYAGKOV WAS, DEMANDING ACCESS TO HIM AND THREATENING TO DRAW "NECESSARY CONCLUSIONS" IF SATISFACTORY REPLY WAS NOT GIVEN. BRITISH ASSURED HIM THEY WERE ACTING IN EARNEST AND WOULD TRANSMIT HIS REQUEST IMMEDIATELY TO LONDON. THEY SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED BELETSKIY THAT REQUEST FOR ACCESS WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO MYAGKOV AND THAT LATTER'S RESPONSE WOULD BE PASSED WHEN AVAILABLE.

4. MORNING FEBRUARY 3 SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL (SHARKOV) AND VICE CONSUL CALLED ON BRITISH POLAD TO ASK FOR ACCESS TO DEFECTOR. THEY WERE LIKEWISE INFORMED THAT REQUEST WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO MYAGKOV.

5. AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 3 BELETSKIY CALLED AGAIN ON BRITISH MISSION AND REITERATED DEMAND FOR ACCESS TO MYAGKOV--WHICH HE VIEWED AS A RIGHT. HE EXPRESSED "PAIN AND IMPATIENCE" OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO REPLY TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS OR TO MESSAGE YEFREMOV HAD SENT AMBASSADOR HENDERSON, AND THREATENED THAT UNLESS SOMETHING HAPPENED SOON SOVIETS MIGHT "RELUCTANTLY" HAVE TO TAKE "RECIPROCAL MEASURES." BELETSKIY, WHO ALSO DELIVERED FURTHER MESSAGE FROM YEFREMOV TO HENDERSON, WAS INFORMED THAT REQUEST FOR ACCESS WOULD BE PUT TO MYAGKOV BUT THAT THREATENED "RECIPROCAL MEASURES" WOULD NOT HELP DETENTE, ALLIED COOPERATION, OR THIS PARTICULAR REQUEST.

6. EVENING FEBRUARY 3 SERB OFFICER AGAIN APPROACHED HEAD OF BRIXMIS, REPEATING DEMAND FOR ACCESS AND ASKING FOR COPY OF DEFECTOR'S ASYLUM PETITION. CONSUL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BERLIN 00228 041820Z

GENERAL SHARKOV ALSO PAID SECOND CALL ON BRITISH POLAD, REQUESTING ACCESS AND ASKING THAT MYAGKOV BE INFORMED THAT SOVIET MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAD DECIDED THERE WOULD BE NO UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR HIM ARISING OUT OF DISCIPLINARY OFFENSE HE HAD COMMITTED IN HIS REGIMENT. SHARKOV REQUESTED THAT DEFECTOR ALSO BE TOLD THAT HIS PARENTS HAD BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY NEWS OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE. BOTH SERB OFFICER AND

CONSUL GENERAL WERE GIVEN BY-NOW STANDARD RESPONSE
THAT REQUESTS FOR ACCESS WOULD BE CONVEYED TO
MYAGKOV AND THAT LATTER'S RESPONSE WOULD BE TRANSMITTED
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. BRITISH HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO GIVE ANY
INDICATION OF MYAGKOV'S WHEREABOUTS, ALTHOUGH
THEY NOW FEEL CERTAIN THAT SOVIETS ARE AWARE HE IS NOT
IN BERLIN.

8. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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NNN

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